(e) For the year 2001-02, an order for 2460 four wheeler unit wagons have been placed under +30% option clause against 2000-2001 contract. Apart from this, wagon manufacturers had an outstanding load of 7917.5 FWUs as on 1.4.2001. A quantity of 2000 FWUs has been earmarked for manufacturing by Railway Workshops. This makes the total coverage for 2001-2002 as about 12,000 FWUs so far.

Corporatisation of the Railways

761. SHRI K. KALAVENTKATA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move for corporatisation of the Railways as proposed by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Whereas it is true that customer focus and quality of service provided to users of both Indian Railways freight and passenger services need to improve. Ministry of Railways docs not subscribe to the view that significant benefits would accrue by corporatising the organisation as a whole. The Expert Group (Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee) on Railways however. has made suggestions in its Interim Executive summary regarding restructuring. The final report is still awaited.

Increasing the number of rail reservation centres

762. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news article "Dalalon se Mukti ke liyc aarakshan kendron ki sankhya badana jaroori", appearing in the Navbharat Times, dated the 14th May, 2001; and

(b) if so. Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Railway is alive to the problems and is constantly adding more booking windows as per feasibility. In past four years 27 PRS counters have been added at existing as well as at three new locations in Delhi area. The work for adding more PRS counters at four new locations is underway. To apprehend the touts/unauthorized travel agents, special teams are formed to conduct surprise checks. As a result of these checks, during April 2000 to March 2001, 243 touts and during April 2001 to June 2001, 101 touts were apprehended and prosecuted under the provision of Railway Act, 1989.

Conversion of Rail Line between Delhi Sarai Rohilla-Rewari

763. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-conversion of second line between Delhi Sarai Rohilla and Rewari into broad gauge, considerable difficulties are being faced by commuters to reach their destinations in time, as trains are generally running late;

(b) whether Government propose to convert this line into broad gauge in the near future;

(c) if so, the details of plans made in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, alongwith the steps to ensure punctuality in running passenger trains on this section, specially during peak hours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The work of gauge conversion of this line has already been taken up and is being dovetailed with the gauge conversion of connected network in the area.

(d) Does not arise.

Disposal of scrap by the Railways

764. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many loopholes in the disposal of scrap by the Railways, which are dominated by mafia;